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THE ARMED PEACE.

BY IDA WHIPPLE BENHAM.

I.

The jaws of death are holden for awhile;

The cannon sulks and frowns, his throat is dumb;
The sword hides in the sheath; the bullet's hum
Is spent and silenced. See! the harvests smile,
And all the troops of summer flowers defile
Down war's old fields, where oft the eager drum
Sent the swift challenge wide, "We come! we
come!"
Timing the march for many a weary mile.

Concord to-day—peace reigns o'er all the land;
Yet how and wherefore? By an accident
Of easy and fortuitous circumstance?

Doth lazy war but rest his mailèd hand?
Is the sword's fury stayed an hour, not spent?

Is peace the happy fortune of a chance?

II.

Biding their time the polished bayonets,

In idle ranks, with haughty menace glow,
Serried and close as cornfields, row on row
Waiting for harvest. Not a sword forgets,
Nor bomb, nor swift torpedo; slyly whets
The rapier in his sheath—well doth he know
The coals of war come quickly to a glow;
And still the cannon crowd the parapets.

Ready and waiting—keen for sharp dispute!

Blind man, thou temptest sore the lightning's stroke,
Thou dost invite the vulture's wanton brood.

Though for a day their hungry throats be mute,

To-morrow thou mayst hear the direful croak—

The heart the lightning's aim, the vulture's food.

Mystic, Conn.

A PERMANENT TRIBUNAL OF ARBITRATION.

BY EDWARD EVERETT HALE, D. D.

Address given at the Mohonk Arbitration Conference, June 6, 1895.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen-The words which the president has just used are a good abridgment of my speech,—a Permanent Tribunal. The illustration which Mr. Abbott used this morning is perfect; it cannot be pressed too far,—the illustration of the United States of America. The United States of America is the oldest, as it is the largest and most successful, peace society which the world has ever known. All these different societies of which Mr. Trueblood spoke this morning, however successful they have been, are utterly inferior to the remarkable association known as "United States Beginning with thirteen independent of America." States, proud of their independency, having very strong grounds for alienation from each other, and including afterward the acquisitions from Louisiana and from the Spanish territory,—acquisitions which mix the Latin race with the Teutonic race, and bring in the Catholic religion to mix with the Protestant religion; -in the face of all the difficulties which such a condition of things presents, you have the extraordinary spectacle of one hundred and six years of peace, broken only by the calamity of the Civil War. That calamity may be considered separately,